

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2001/08/08 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100230052-6

CHANNELS

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

PAGE OF PAGES

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO TRI

SCM 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

CIA/DCI

WHIZWH 740412

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CLAMSS

SOURCE REF:

**SENSITIVE**

ROUTING

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMERE.

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-4

DATE: 12 APRIL 1974

SUBJECT: THE FALL OF TONLE CHAM

REF

25X1C

GVM OFFICIALS HAVE CON-

CLUDED THAT BECAUSE THE COMMUNISTS TOOK THE TONLE CHAM RANGER CAMP WITHOUT LAUNCHING GROUND ATTACKS, THE RANGERS PROBABLY STRUCK AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNISTS TO LEAVE THE CAMP AND PASS UNMOLESTED THROUGH THEIR LINES.

THE CAMP'S COMMANDER REQUESTED APPROVAL TO LEAVE THE CAMP FROM GENERAL THUAN, MILITARY REGION 3 COMMANDER. SOMETIME DURING THE NIGHT OF APRIL 11, THUAN REPORTEDLY REFUSED BUT SHORTLY AFTERWARD, THE GARRISON WENT ON RADIO SILENCE AND LEFT THE CAMP TO MAKE THEIR WAY TO AN LOC.

IN RETALIATION, FOR THE LOSS OF TONLE CHAM, PRESIDENT THIEU AUTHORIZED HEAVY AIRSTRIKES AGAINST THE COMMUNIST'S LOC WITH

DATE:

ORIG:

UNIT:

EXT:

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED

E 2 IMPDET  
CL BY:

FORM 4-73 4C

USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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DISTRICT CAPITAL TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 12.

THE TONLE CHAN CAMP HAS BEEN UNDER SEIGE FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS AND HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO FREQUENT SHELLINGS SINCE THE START OF THE CEASE-FIRE IN JANUARY 1973. THE CAMP WAS IMPORTANT PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION ASTRIDE INFILTRATION ROUTES. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE TRADITIONALLY USED TO GET CLOSER TO SAIGON. SOME EARLIER PROPOSALS TO GET THE RANGERS OUT OF TONLE CHAN BY STRIKING A LOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNISTS WERE REJECTED BY PRESIDENT THIEU. E-2 IMPDET. SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: CAP DIV AND NIO [REDACTED]

25X1A9a

25X1A9a

DATE: 12 APR 74  
 ORIG: [REDACTED] /JHSS  
 UNIT: CTA OPS CTR  
 EXT: 4240

RELEASING OFFICER

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